

Exhibit 15

Coal Combustion Waste Damage
Case Assessments Excerpt, US EPA
July 9, 2007

Coal Combustion Waste Damage Case Assessments

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Solid Waste**

July 9, 2007

With the exception of the documents listed below, the documents referenced throughout this assessment are available from the docket to the Notice of Data Availability on the Disposal of Coal Combustion Wastes in Landfills and Surface Impoundments at www.regulations.gov, docket ID EPA-HQ-RCRA-2006-0796, through internet links provided, or from other identified sources.

1. Application of Don Frame Trucking, Inc. Petitioner for a Judgment Pursuant to Article 78 of the CPLR against the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Respondent; Supreme Court of the State of New York County of Chautauqua (July 22, 1988). Order G11278.
2. Selenium Posting on Hyco Lake Rescinded, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), August 2001.
3. Feasibility Study for the Y-12 Chestnut Ridge Operable Unit 2 Filled Coal Ash Pond, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. DOE/OR/02-1259&D1. August 1994.
4. Final Site Investigation Report on Groundwater Contamination, Township of Pines, Porter County, Indiana. December 2002.
5. Texas Bureau of Health (TBH). 1992. Fish Advisory: Brandy Branch Reservoir. May 1992.
6. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). 2003. Improving Water Quality in Brandy Branch Reservoir; One TMDL for Selenium. February 2003.
7. Report: Sulfate Investigation, Miamiview Landfill, Hamilton County, Ohio. Prepared for the Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company by Dames & Moore. December 13, 1994. Available in the docket titled Availability of Report to Congress on Fossil Fuel Combustion; Request for Comments and Announcement of Public Hearing, EPA-HQ-RCRA-1999-0022-0632.

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from South Carolina's Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) confirmed that there is arsenic contamination attributable to two coal combustion waste (CCW) management units at this site. According to the DHEC contact, it is unlikely that there are any ground water supply wells or other human exposure points in the vicinity of the facility. Furthermore, ground water supply wells in the region typically are drilled beneath the underlying confining geologic unit.

Basis for Consideration as a Proven Damage Case: Scientific - There are exceedances of the health-based standard for arsenic at this site. While there are no known human exposure points nearby, some recent exceedances have been detected outside an established regulatory boundary.

11. Belews Lake, North Carolina⁴⁹

History: This Lake was impounded in the early 1970s to serve as a cooling reservoir for a large coal-fired power plant. Fly ash produced by the power plant was disposed in a settling basin, which released selenium-laden effluent in return flows to the Lake. Due to the selenium contamination, 16 of the 20 fish species originally present in the reservoir were entirely eliminated, including all the primary sport fish. The pattern of selenium contamination from the plant and fish impacts persisted from 1974 to 1985. In late 1985, under mandates from the State of North Carolina, the power company changed operations for fly ash disposal, and selenium-laden effluent no longer entered the Lake.

A fish advisory was issued for selenium in 1993 which was rescinded December 31, 2000⁵⁰.

Basis for Consideration as a Proven Damage Case: EPA has categorized this case as a proven ecological damage case for the following reasons: (1) Scientific evidence of extensive impacts on fish populations due to direct discharge to a surface water body, and (2) Administrative - The State required changes in operating practices to mitigate the contamination.

12. U.S. Department of Energy Savannah River Project, South Carolina⁵¹

History: The Savannah River Project commenced operations and disposal of ash in 1952. At this site, a coal-fired power plant sluices fly ash to a series of open settling basins. A continuous flow of sluice water exits the basins, overflows, and enters a swamp that in turn discharges to Beaver Dam Creek. Observations of bullfrogs of all developmental stages in the settling basins and swamp suggest that the mixture of pollutants that characterize the site does not prevent

⁴⁹ Memorandum from SAIC to Dennis Ruddy regarding Review of Causative Factors for Coal Combustion Waste Damage Cases, November 29, 2000.

⁵⁰ <http://134.67.99.49/scripts/esrimap.dll?Name=Listing&Cmd=NameQuery&Left=-178.215026855469&Right=-52.6202812194824&Top=83.1083221435547&Bottom=-14.375550384521&shp=3&shp=6&idChoice=3&loc=on&NameZoom=NC%20-%20Belews%20Lake>

⁵¹ Memorandum from SAIC to Dennis Ruddy regarding Review of Causative Factors for Coal Combustion Waste Damage Cases, November 29, 2000.